

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A plurality of panels, each of said ~~Means for installation of panels, the~~ panels comprising:

a core,

a decorative upper surface, and

edges, at least one of said edges comprising a joining element, wherein said joining element is at least one selected from the group consisting of ~~provided with a tongue and a groove joining means for joining~~ positioning the panels towards one another,

wherein predetermined portions of the edges joining element comprise ~~are provided with~~ an encapsulated agent, positioned on the joining element such that when the panels are joined during which is made present on the edges of the surface elements before assembly, the and ~~which~~ encapsulation of the encapsulated agent is ruptured by means of assembly making the agent available to the core whereby the panels are joined to one another by use of the joining means wherein a unit of a plurality of surface elements is formed.

2. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 1 wherein the encapsulated agent is present in the form of at least one tube containing the agent.

3 (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 1 wherein the encapsulated agent is present in the form of a plurality of spheres containing the agent.

4. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 2 wherein the at least one tube is sealed ~~in~~ at its ends.

5. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 2 wherein the tube is sectioned into a series of confined bodies of agent.

6. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 1 wherein the encapsulated agent is a glue.

7. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 6 wherein the encapsulated glue is present in the form of pairs of tubes where a first tube contains a first glue component of a two component glue system and where a second tube contains a second component of the two component glue system.

8. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 7 wherein the tubes are sealed at ~~in~~ the ends.

9. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 7 wherein the tubes are sectioned into a series of confined bodies of glue.

10. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 3 wherein the encapsulated agent is a glue contained in pairs of spheres where a first amount of spheres contains a first glue component of a two component glue system and where a second amount of spheres contains a second component of the two component glue system.

11. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim ~~10~~ 5 wherein the tube comprises a thermoplastic material, and locally welded section walls, welded ~~whereby the sectioning is performed by locally welding the wall of the tube together~~ at predetermined positions thereby forming the confined bodies of agent.

12. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 5 wherein the tube comprises a thermoplastic material, and locally welded section walls, welded ~~whereby the sectioning is performed by locally welding the wall of the tube together~~ at predetermined positions thereby forming the confined bodies of glue.

13. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 8, wherein the tube is welded from a thermoplastic laminate strip the long sides of the strip overlapping so that an inside of the strip is welded towards an outside of the opposite long side of the strip thereby forming the tube, the material of the laminate being selected so that the inside is constituted of a first material and the outside is constituted by a second material wherein the first material has ~~have~~ a good bond when welded together with the first material and wherein a second material has ~~have~~ a bond to the first material which is weaker than the bond between two first materials.

14. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 13 wherein the tubes are sectioned into a series of confined bodies of agent.

15 (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 14 wherein the sectioning is performed by locally welding the inside of the tube together at predetermined positions thereby forming the confined bodies of agent.

16. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 14 wherein the tube comprises a thermoplastic material whereby the sectioning is performed by locally welding the wall of the tube together at predetermined positions thereby forming confined bodies of agent in the form of glue.

17. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 6 wherein the glue is a PVAC glue.

18. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 6 wherein the glue is a polyurethane glue.

19. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 1 wherein the joining elements ~~means~~ are arranged so that a first edge of the panel is provided with a groove while a second edge, arranged parallel to the first edge and opposite thereto, is provided with a tongue.

20. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 1 ~~19~~ wherein the encapsulated agent is applied in a recess in the groove.

21. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 1 ~~19~~ wherein the encapsulated agent is applied in a recess on the tongue.

22. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 21 wherein the recess is arranged on an upper portion of the tongue.

23. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 1 wherein a first portion of the encapsulated agent is arranged in a recess of the groove while a second portion of the encapsulated agent is arranged in a recess on the tongue.

24. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 9 wherein the first tube is arranged in a recess of the groove while the second tube is arranged in a recess on the tongue.

25. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 24 wherein the joining element ~~means~~ comprises at least one of a snapping wedge ~~wedges~~ and a recess ~~recesses~~ arranged to position and mechanically lock the panels tightly together while the glue sets.

26. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 1 wherein a glue is applied on the edges as an emulsion which then is allowed to dry before the joining of the surface elements and that the agent is a solvent used for activating the dry glue during assembly.

27. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 26 wherein the agent is water.

28. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 26 wherein the agent is a mixture of water and alcohol.

29. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 26 wherein the glue further comprises an expanding agent causing the glue to swell when activated.

30. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 29 wherein the expanding agent is a cellulose derivative.

31. (Currently Amended) The panels ~~Means~~ according to claim 29 wherein the expanding agent causes the glue to foam.